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Section 6

Uintah Basin Plan

Utah State Water Plan

Management

The Uintah Basin provides a variety of water-related issues which can be viewed in isolation or as part of a broader mosaic of ecosystem management.

6.1 Introduction

This section describes the water management functions of private and government entities. Water management enables delivery of water to people and places at the optimum time and in the optimum condition. One of the present challenges facing water managers in the Uintah Basin is delivering water for irrigation during dry years or in areas where no reservoir storage is available for spring runoff impoundment for late summer delivery to water users.

6.2 Setting

Water management has historically been the responsibility of local water suppliers such as mutual irrigation companies, water user associations, special districts and cities. These entities operate within the rules and guidelines established by state statutes and administered by the State Engineer. Since the mid-1800s, most basin water has been locally used for agricultural crops.

6.3 Management Entities and Systems

Water management organizations in the Uintah Basin include the large multi-county CUWCD with extensive facilities in the basin. The Uintah Water Conservancy District serves Uintah County and is responsible for managing Steinaker and Red Fleet reservoirs. The Duchesne County Water Conservancy District serves all of Duchesne County. The Provo River Water Users Association is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Duchesne Tunnel. In addition, other mutual irrigation companies may control from only a few acre-feet to several thousand acre-feet of annual water rights.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) manages all irrigation water on the reservation,¹³⁷ both Indian and non-Indian. Water is allocated according to water rights associated with the irrigated land, and Indian water rights have first priority. Ditch riders, hired by the BIA, check the water diverted to each farm. There are about 59,300 acres of irrigated Indian lands. The Uintah Indian Irrigation Project (UIIP), managed by the BIA, delivers water to UIIP lands owned by the tribe, individual Indians and non-Indians. All Indian irrigation water rights are held in trust by the BIA.

Domestic and culinary water are administered and controlled by the Ute Indian Tribe. Non-Indian domestic water is controlled by entities such as Roosevelt City and other non-Indian communities located within the reservation boundaries. The Moon Lake Water Users Association controls 88,070 acre-feet of water from the Lake Fork, Yellowstone and Uinta rivers.

The primary tools for managing water in the basin are storage reservoirs. Table 6-1 and Figure 6-1 show existing lakes and reservoirs in the drainage area greater than 100 acre-feet in volume.

6.3.1 Agricultural

Management of agricultural water is provided by numerous mutual irrigation companies and water conservancy districts. Table 6-2 shows irrigation companies and water user groups with management responsibilities in delivering water to land areas larger than 350 acres. The four major water management entities delivering federal reclamation project water are: 1) Strawberry Water Users Association for the Strawberry Valley Project,

2) Ute Indian Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), 3) Uintah Water Conservancy District for Uintah County, and 4) Central Utah Water Conservancy District for the Central Utah Project. The newly formed Duchesne County Water Conservancy District for Duchesne County does not deliver any federal reclamation project water.

These organizations provide water for irrigation and M&I. More information on agricultural water management can be found in Section 10.

6.3.2 Municipal and Industrial

A large proportion of municipal and industrial (M&I) water is managed by cities and agencies such as public works departments. The Ute Indian Tribe manages its own culinary water system and delivers some water to other entities. Figure 6-2 shows the location of public community water suppliers. More data on public and private water suppliers can be found in Sections 5 and 11.

6.3.3 Wholesalers/Water Suppliers

Wholesalers are those agencies that deliver raw or treated water to other agencies for the resale to water users. The Central Utah Water Conservancy District and the Uintah Water Conservancy District are the primary water wholesalers in the Uintah Basin. Municipal water districts are associated with specific cities to deliver raw or treated water which is then sold at a higher price to residential, commercial and industrial users. Table 6-3 lists wholesale water suppliers.

6.3.4 Waterfowl Management

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources manages Stewart Lake and Pelican Lake. Jones Hole and Ouray National Waterfowl Refuge are managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). For more information on waterfowl and wildlife-related water management, see Section 14.

6.4 Problems and Needs

With completion of the Central Utah Project, most of the large dam and reservoir sites will have been developed. Future growth may result in smaller dam sites being considered for construction on

tributaries and in the diversion of Green River water for use in the basin.

Following the large water project development period, long-range planning will become more crucial. Public involvement and collaboration among competing water interests will be required. There is a growing need for education programs to prepare present and future leaders to make informed choices about how water is managed. Tradeoffs between economic and environmental values can best be made by people who understand the nature of water and the role it plays in natural ecosystems and in economic growth. □

**Table 6-1
Existing Lakes and Reservoirs^a**

Name	County	Owner	Storage (ac-ft)	Use
Bridger Lake	Summit	Smith's Fork IC	3,273	IR,RE
Meeks Cabin Lake	Summit	BR	32,470	IR,RE
Beaver Meadows Reservoir	Summit	BR	2,155	IR,RE
Stateline Reservoir	Summit	BR	14,000	IR,RE
Tamarack Lake	Summit	Sheep Creek IC	600	IR,RE
Hoop Lake	Summit	Hoop Lake IC	5,340	IR,RE
China Lake	Summit	Smith's Fork IC	621	RE
Crouse Lake	Uintah	Wildlife Resources	1,100	IR,RE
Calder Lake	Uintah	Wildlife Resources	1,630	RE
Matt Warner Reservoir	Uintah	Wildlife Resources	2,796	RE
East Park Reservoir	Uintah	Wildlife Resources	3,774	IR,RE
Oaks Park Reservoir	Uintah	Ashley Valley IC	6,727	IR,RE
Goose Lake	Uintah	Ashley Valley IC	150	IR
Long Park (Uintah) Reservoir	Uintah	Ashley Valley IC	531	IR,RE
Paradise Park Reservoir	Uintah	BR/Whiterocks IC	3,135	IR,RE
Whiterocks Lake	Uintah	Ouray Park	1,075	IR,RE
Cliff Lake	Uintah	Ouray Park	1,063	IR,RE
Red Fleet Reservoir	Uintah	BR	26,170	WS,IR,RE,M&I,FC
Steinaker Reservoir	Uintah	BR/CUP	33,300	WS,IR,RE,M&I,FC
Stewart Lake	Uintah	Wildlife Resources	300	RE
Pelican Lake	Uintah	Ouray Park IC	12,000	IR,RE
Brough Reservoir	Uintah	Ouray Park IC/ Wildlife Resources	3,000	IR,RE
Cottonwood Reservoir	Uintah	Ouray Park IC	6,130	IR,RE
Bullock Draw Reservoir	Uintah	Wildlife Resources	560	IR,RE
LaPoint Reservoir	Uintah	Whiterocks IC	1,520	IR,RE
Julius Park Reservoir	Uintah	Mosby IC	240	IR,RE
Ashley Valley Wastewater	Uintah	Ashley Valley Sewer Board	2,350	M&I
Pariette Control Dike	Uintah	Wildlife Resources	200	RE
Bonanza Power (Recycle Pond)	Uintah	Deseret G & T	220	M&I
Pariette West Dike	Uintah	Wildlife Resources	250	RE
Goose Lake (Upper)	Uintah	Ashley valley IC	340	IR,RE
Toware Lake	Uintah	BIA	350	IR,RE
Twin Lakes	Uintah	Ashley Valley IC	500	IR,RE
Ashley Twin Lakes	Uintah	Ashley Valley IC	360	IR,RE
Bonanza Power (Raw Water Pond)	Uintah	Deseret G & T	500	M&I

Table 6-1 (Continued)
Existing Lakes and Reservoirs^a

Name	County	Owner	Storage (ac-ft)	Use
Bonanza Power (S Evap Pond)	Uintah	Deseret G & T	520	IR,RE
Pariette Dike	Uintah	Wildlife Resources	820	RE
Bonanza Power (N Evap Pond)	Uintah	Bonanza Power	1,470	M&I
S. F. Phosphate Pond	Uintah	S. F. Simplot	16,000	M&I
Chepeta Lake	Duchesne	Whiterocks IC	2,812	IR,RE
Moccasin Lake	Duchesne	Whiterocks IC	122	IR,RE
Wigwam Lake	Duchesne	Whiterocks IC	110	IR,RE
Fox Lake	Duchesne	Dry Gulch IC	1,126	IR,RE
Cresant Lake	Duchesne	Dry Gulch IC	184	IR,RE
Atwood Lake	Duchesne	Dry Gulch IC	2,551	IR,RE
Upper Chain Lake	Duchesne	Dry Gulch IC	507	IR,RE
Lower Chain Lake	Duchesne	Dry Gulch IC	796	IR,RE
Water Lily Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	Not Used	RE
East Timothy Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	616	IR,RE
West Timothy Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	Not Used	RE
Farmers Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	Not Used	RE
White Miller Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	Not Used	RE
Deer Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	120	IR,RE
Milk Lake	Duchesne	Hartman Family	492	IR,RE
Superior Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	318	IR,RE
Five Point Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	639	IR,RE
Drift Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	170	IR,RE
Bluebell Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	257	IR,RE
Brown Duck Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	321	IR,RE
Island Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	688	IR,RE
Kidney Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	3,910	IR,RE
Clement Lake	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	630	IR,RE
Cedar View Reservoir	Duchesne	BIA	200	IR,RE
Twin Pots Reservoir	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	4,130	IR,RE
Upper Stillwater Reservoir	Duchesne	BR/CUP	32,009	FC,IR,RE
Currant Creek Reservoir	Duchesne	BR/CUP	15,670	FC,IR,RE
Starvation Reservoir	Duchesne	BR/CUP	167,500	FC,IR,M&I,RE
Strawberry Reservoir	Duchesne	BR/CUP	1,106,500	FC,IR,M&I,RE
Bottle Hollow Reservoir	Duchesne	BIA	11,100	RE
Moon Lake Reservoir	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	35,760	IR,RE
Lake Boreham Reservoir	Duchesne	BIA	5,800	IR,RE

Table 6-1 (Continued) Existing Lakes and Reservoirs^a				
Name	County	Owner	Storage (ac-ft)	Use
Red Creek Reservoir	Duchesne	Red Creek IC/ Wildlife Resources	5,700	IR,RE
Big Sand Wash Reservoir	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	12,100	IR,RE
Brown Draw Reservoir	Duchesne	Moon Lake WUA	5,900	RE
Heller Lake	Duchesne	Monarch IC	180	IR
Montez Creek Reservoir	Duchesne	Dry Gulch IC	1,520	IR,RE
Daggett Lake	Daggett	Lucerne Valley Canal Co.	330	IR,RE
Spirit Lake	Daggett	Sheep Creek IC	550	IR,RE
Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge Pond	Daggett	BLM	400	IR,RE
Browne Lake	Daggett	Wildlife Resources	640	RE
Sheep Creek Reservoir	Daggett	Wildlife Resources	920	RE
Long Park (Daggett) Res.	Daggett	Sheep Creek IC	13,700	IR,RE
Flaming Gorge Reservoir	Daggett	BR	3,789,000	P,IR,FC,RE
^a Lakes and reservoirs larger than 100 acre-feet of storage. <i>Key to Use Categories:</i> FC - Flood Control IR - Irrigation M&I - Municipal/Industrial P - Power Generation RE - Recreation				
<i>Key to Owners:</i> BLM - Bureau of Land Management BR - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation CUP - Central Utah Project IC - Irrigation Company WUA - Water Users Association				

Figure 8-1

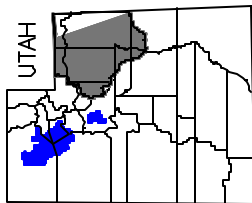


Table 6-2
Major Irrigation Water Provider Organizations

Organization	Acres Served	Water Source
Pioneer Canal Company	1,405	Duchesne River
Tabby Irrigation Company	1,255	Duchesne/Strawberry
Rhoades Canal	1,003	Duchesne River
Riverdell Canal Company	507	Duchesne River
Tabby Irrigation Company	1,047	Duchesne River
Duchesne Irrigation Company	1,854	Duchesne River
Hicken Ditch	429	Duchesne River
Hidden Valley Irrigation Co.	540	Duchesne River
Farm Creek Irrigation Company	1,606	Duchesne River
Rocky Point Ditch Company	3,556	Duchesne River
Uintah Basin Irrigation Company	10,304	Duchesne River
Monarch	494	Dry Gulch Creek
Orchard Mesa	596	Duchesne River
Little Red Creek	392	Duchesne River
Red Creek Irrigation Company	2,770	Red Creek
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	566	Duchesne River
Uintah Indian Irrigation Service	77,500	Uinta/Lake Fork/Duchesne
Ronald Ivie	528	Duchesne River
JJNP Company	754	Duchesne/Strawberry
Uintah Independent Company	2,585	Uinta River
Dry Gulch Irrigation Company	30,194	Lake Fork River
Dry Gulch Irrigation Company	20,894	Uinta River
Farnsworth Canal & Reservoir Co.	11,600	Lake Fork River
Lake Fork Western Irrigation Co.	2,309	Lake Fork River
Lake Fork Irrigation Company	2,440	Lake Fork River
Uteland Ditch Company	1,368	Lake Fork River
South Boneta Ditch Company	617	Lake Fork River
T. N. Dodd Ditch Company	990	Uinta River
Sandwash Irrigation Company	655	Sandwash Creek
Uintah River Irrigation Company	2,044	Uinta River
Ouray Park Irrigation Company	5,000	Deep Creek, Uinta River
Whiterocks Irrigation Company	4,360	Whiterocks River
Ashley Upper Irrigation Company	8,820	Ashley/Spring Creek

Table 6-2 (Continued)
Major Irrigation Water Provider Organizations

Organization	Acres Served	Water Source
Island Ditch	690	Ashley Creek
Rock Point Irrigation Company	2,940	Ashley Creek
Sunshine Canal	1,000	Brush Creek
Burton Ditch	559	Brush Creek
Burns Bench Canal	3,360	Brush Creek
Escalante Ranch	2,600	Green River
High Line Canal Company	1,250	Ashley Creek
River Irrigation Company	420	Ashley Creek
Greendale Water Company	257	Allen Creek
Interstate Irrigation Company	34	Burnt Creek
Peoples Canal Company	349	Spring Stream
Sheep Creek Irrigation Company	8,109 ^a	Sheep/Carter Creek
Pot Creek Irrigation Company	164	Crouse/Pot Creek

^aAbout 200 acres located in Wyoming.

Source: *Water-Related Land Use Inventories*, Division of Water Resources, May 1994.

Water Companies of Utah, Division of Water Rights, May 1990.

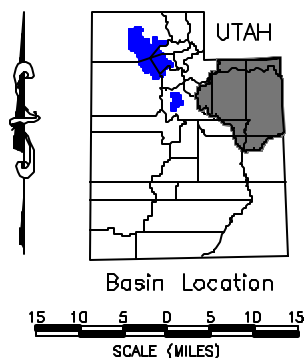


Figure 6-2
PUBLIC COMMUNITY WATER PROVIDERS
Uintah Basin

1. Fruitland WID
2. Tabiona
3. Duchesne Upper Country
4. Duchesne
5. East Duchesne
6. Myton
7. Ouray Park
8. Valley Park Trailer Court
9. Johnson
10. Neola
11. Roosevelt
12. Ballard
13. Ute Indian
14. Tridell/Lapoint
15. Maeser
16. Ashley Valley Water Improvement District
17. Uintah Water Conservancy District
18. Jensen
19. Greendale
20. Dutch John
21. Manila
22. Daggett County Water & Sewer
23. Clay Basin
24. Vernal
25. Fruitland Homeowners
26. Central Utah Water Conservancy District-Ashley Valley Water Treatment Plant
27. Pinion Forest Service District
28. Hanna Water & Sewer District

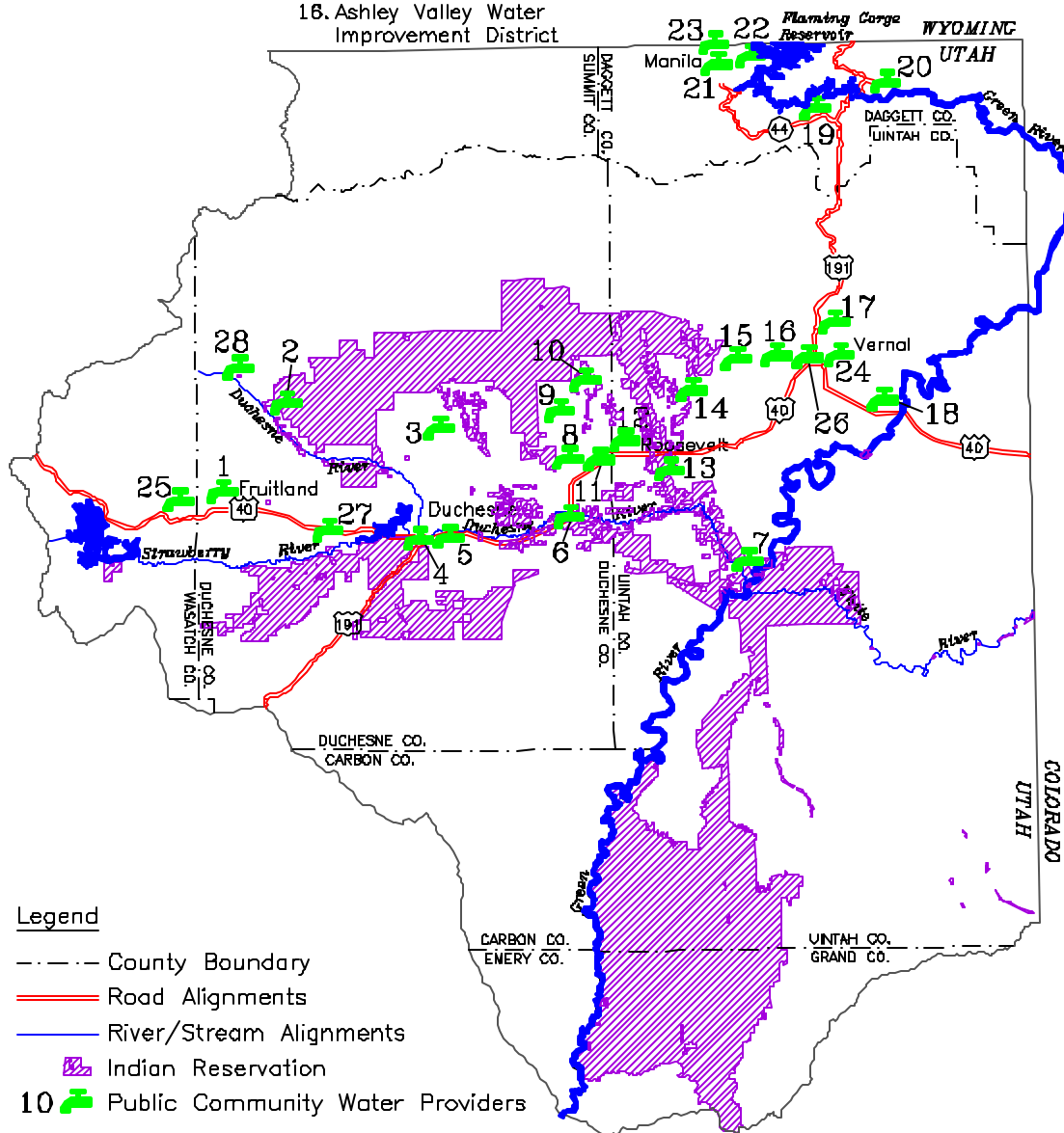


Table 6-3
Water Wholesalers/Water Suppliers

Conservancy Districts

Central Utah Water Conservancy District
Duchesne County Water Conservancy District
Uintah Water Conservancy District

Municipal Water Suppliers

Daggett County

Bureau of Reclamation (Dutch John)
Daggett County Water and Sewer
Greendale Water Company
Manila Municipal Water System
Questar Pipeline Company (Clay Basin)

Duchesne County

Central Utah Water Conservancy District - Duchesne Plant
Duchesne City
Myton Municipal Water System
Johnson Water Improvement District
East Duchesne Water Improvement District
Duchesne County Upper Country WID
Fruitland Water Special Service District
Roosevelt Municipal Water Systems
Neola Water and Sewer District
Tabiona Town
Valley Park Trailer Court
Ute Indian Tribe Water System
Fruitland Homeowners Association
Hanna Water and Sewer District

Uintah County

Uintah Highlands Water and Sewer Improvement District
Uintah Special Service District
Ashley Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District
Jensen Water Improvement District
Maeser Water Improvement District
Central Utah Water Conservancy District - Ashley Plant
Vernal Municipal Water System
Utah Water Conservancy District
Tridell-LaPoint Water Improvement District
Ute Indian Tribe Water System
Ballard Water Improvement District
Ouray Park Water Improvement District
Johnson Water District

Source: Utah League of Cities & Towns, *Directory of Local Government Officials*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1997.